

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 176519
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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S/S-O:JETHYDEN

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O P 280026Z JUL 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 176519

EXDIS

FOL RPT PARIS 21427 ACTION SECSTATE 23 JUL 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T PARIS 21427

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, PINS, ET, SO, FR, FT

SUBJECT: FRENCH MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA

REF: A) PARIS 20195, B) PARIS 20983

1. AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS LABOULAYE, QUAI ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR FOR AFRICAN/MALAGASY AFFAIRS HAREL ON JULY 22 GAVE US FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING THE MILITARY SHOPPING LIST THE SOMALIS HAD GIVEN THE FRENCH. CONTRARY TO OUR EXPECTATIONS THAT QUAI WOULD PROVIDE THE ACTUAL LIST, HAREL GAVE AN ORAL RUNDOWN WHICH, WHILE COVERING IMPORTANT ITEMS, IS NOT COMPLETE. LAST JUNE THE SOMALIS ASKED FOR 80,000 RIFLES, 8,500 MILLION ROUNDS OF CARTRIDGES, 4,00 AUTOMATIC PISTOLS. THE FRENCH HAD DECIDED TO SUPPLY BETWEEN 10 AND 12 PERCENT OF THE OVERALL SOMALI REQUESTS; OBVIOUSLY FOR SOME CATEGORIES THEY WOULD PROVIDE MORE THAN THIS BASIC AVERAGE, BUT FOR OTHER CATEGORIES THEY WOULD PROVIDE NOTHING. FOR EXAMPLE, THE FRENCH WERE PREPARED TO SUPPLY 14,000 RIFLES, 8,000 AUTOMATIC RIFLES, 600 AUTOMATIC PISTOLS, 1 MILLION CARTRIDGES FOR THE RIFLES AND THE AUTOMATIC RIFLES. WHILE NOT SPECIFIC ABOUT QUANTITIES OR CALIBRES, HAREL SAID THEY WOULD BE PROVIDING SOME AMMUNITION FOR OTHER WEAPONS, INCLUDING FOR MORTARS.

2. HAREL NOTED THAT THE SOMALIS MAY STILL HAVE SHIPPING PROBLEMS, BUT THE GOF HAD MADE IT VERY CLEAR
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THAT THE GOS SHOULD NOT ONLY PAY FOR THE SHIPPING, BUT ALSO MAKE ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS.
(WE ASSUME THAT, AS LABOULAYE TOLD US REF A, THAT SAUDI'S ARE PROVIDING THE FUNDS FOR THE EQUIPMENT, AND PERHAPS FOR SHIPPING COSTS.)

3. THE FRENCH STRESSED TO THE SOMALIS THAT THEY WERE PROVIDING "DEFENSIVE" WEAPONS AND THAT DJIBOUTI WAS AND SHOULD REMAIN AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY (PARA 2, REF A).

4. THE FRENCH STRESSED THE SENSITIVITY OF THIS INFORMATION AND REQUESTED US TO MAKE SURE THAT IT DID NOT GET BACK TO THE SOMALIS.

5. WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS NECESSARY.
HARTMAN

UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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